
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: AFT "COMMENTS"
DATE 1/8/02
CC: KINNEY

This memo is for informational purposes only.

Maryann Graczyk of the AFT emailed me yesterday with the following comments that she asked me to pass along to you:

1. AFT members in the WDAM viewing area are concerned at your comments in a recent tv interview. Graczyk said that you mentioned that teacher salaries are now ranked 19th among average teacher salaries. Teachers feel that you should stress that salaries are anticipated at being 19th when the pay scale plan/raise is complete.
2. Regarding National Board Certified Teachers, Graczyk stated that "while we are all proud that Mississippi teachers are earning national board certification, the emphasis on their being the best teachers in the state needs to be included in a message that says we have many great teachers in Mississippi and among these, many have gone on to greater challenge to become national board certified. The extreme focus on national board certified teachers as being THE best is causing many who have chosen not to attempt this process to turn against those who constantly applaud only those who have national board certification. The process is at least year long, and requires almost exclusive attention to it. Many great teachers in Mississippi have not tried national board certification process due to the demands in other areas, particularly in the care of young families or in the care of elderly parents. Hundreds of great teachers are so close to retirement they do not see the need to go into a process which will provide them \$6000 for ten years when they will only be teaching another one or two years. Hundreds of others are employed in school districts which cannot not or will not support the environment that is needed to attempt to comply with national board certification guidelines."

I thanked Graczyk for her comments, assured her that I'd pass them on to you and told her that we appreciate the hard work of all of our teachers.